

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method in a host data processing system for providing electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients client, the method comprising:
 - providing, within the host on a data processing system, a first software facility for a first one of the plurality of business clients, the first software facility including first software facility first and second level services; for a first business client;
 - providing, within the host, a second software facility for a second one of the plurality of business clients, the second software facility including second facility first and second level services;
 - providing, on the data processing system, second level services for the first business client; and
 - said host providing web hosting for said first and second ones of the plurality of business clients using said first software facility first and second level services and said second software facility first and second level services;
 - automatically determining, by the first software facility, that a transaction needs to be executed between the first software facility and the second software facility, the determination is being made in response to a request from the first one of the plurality of business clients;
 - said first software facility making decisions on behalf of the first one of the plurality of business clients to execute transactions with the second software facility;
 - the first and second software facilities automatically completing the transaction without any action required by either the first one or the second one of the plurality of business clients, and
 - facilitating a transaction between the first business client and a third party business on behalf of the first business clients wherein the parameters defining the bounds in which the transaction takes place being [[are]] determined by the first one of the plurality of business clients client.
2. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein host the data processing system is a plurality of networked data processing systems.
3. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first software facility first level services and the second software facility first level services include at least one of providing storage, providing network connectivity, web hosting, and providing processing capability.

4. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first software facility second level services and the second software facility second level services include at least one of providing inventory management services, providing accounting services, providing pricing services, and providing billing and collection services.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: wherein facilitating transactions comprises:

identifying, by said first software facility, a purchasing need of the first one of the plurality of business clients client;

identifying, by said first software facility, the second one of the plurality of business clients client as a vendor for the purchasing need of the first one of the plurality of business clients client;

facilitating, by said first and second software facilities, payment; and

adjusting, by said first and second software facilities, inventory records for the first one and second one of the plurality of business clients client.

7. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein facilitating payment comprises: transferring appropriate sums from an account belonging to the first one of the plurality of business clients client to an account belonging to the second one of the plurality of business clients client.

8. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between said [[a]] host of the first and second level services and the first one of the plurality of business clients client for the providing of the first software facility first and second level services are automated.

9. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the quantity of the first software facility first and second level services provided is adjusted by said [[a]] host of the first and second level services based upon the fulfillment of criteria specified by the first one of the plurality of business clients client.

10. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: subcontracting the first software facility first level services and the second software facility first level services from a secondary hosting service.

11. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a host data processing system for providing electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients ~~client~~, the computer program product comprising:

~~first instructions for providing, within the host on a data processing system, a first software facility for a first one of the plurality of business clients, the first software facility including first software facility first and second level services; for a first business client;~~

~~second instructions for providing, within the host, a second software facility for a second one of the plurality of business clients, the second software facility including second software facility first and level services;~~

~~second instructions for providing, on the data processing system, second level services for the first business client; and~~

~~said host providing web hosting for said first and second ones of the plurality of business clients using said first software facility first and second level services and said second software facility first and second level services;~~

~~third instructions for automatically determining, by the first software facility, that a transaction needs to be executed between the first software facility and the second software facility, the determination not being made in response to a request from the first one of the plurality of business clients;~~

~~said first software facility making decisions on behalf of the first one of the plurality of business clients to execute transactions with the second software facility;~~

~~the first and second software facilities automatically completing the transaction without any action required by either the first one or the second one of the plurality of business clients, and~~

~~third instructions for facilitating a transaction between the first business client and a third party business on behalf of the first business clients wherein the parameters defining the bounds in which the transaction takes place being [[are]] determined by the first one of the plurality of business clients client.~~

12. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the host data processing system is a plurality of networked data processing systems.

13. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the first software facility first level services and the second software facility first level services include at least one of providing storage, providing network connectivity, web hosting, and providing processing capability.

14. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the first software facility second level services and the second software facility second level services include at least one of providing inventory management services, providing accounting services, providing pricing services, and providing billing and collection services.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 10 ~~[[15]], further comprising; wherein facilitating transactions comprises;~~

fourth instructions for identifying, by the first software facility, a purchasing need of the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~;

fifth instructions for identifying, by the first software facility, the second one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~ as a vendor for the purchasing need of the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~;

sixth instructions for facilitating, by the first and second software facilities, payment; and

seventh instructions for adjusting, by the first and second software facilities, inventory records for the first one and second one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~.

17. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein facilitating payment comprises:

eighth instructions for transferring appropriate sums from an account belonging to the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~ to an account belonging to the second one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~.

18. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between said [[a]] host of the first and second level services and the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~ for the providing of the first software facility first and second level services are automated.

19. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the quantity of the first software facility first and second level services provided is adjusted by said [[a]] host of the first and second level services based upon the fulfillment of criteria specified by the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~.

20. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, further comprising:
fourth instructions for subcontracting the first software facility first level services and the second software facility first level services from a secondary hosting service.

21. (Currently amended) A system in a host data processing system for providing electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients ~~client~~, the system comprising:

a first software facility ~~service component which provides~~ provided within the host ~~[[on a]]~~ data processing system ~~for a first one of the plurality of business clients, the first software facility including~~ first software facility first and second level services for a first ~~one of the plurality of~~ business clients ~~client~~;

a second software facility provided within the host for a second one of the plurality of business clients, the second software facility including second software facility first and second level services;

~~a second service component which provides, on the data processing system, second level services for the first business client; and~~

said host providing web hosting for said first and second ones of the plurality of business clients using said first software facility first and second level services and said second software facility first and second level services;

the first software facility automatically determining that a transaction needs to be executed between the first software facility and the second software facility, the determination not being made in response to a request from the first one of the plurality of business clients;

said first software facility making decisions on behalf of the first one of the plurality of business clients to execute transactions with the second software facility;

the first and second software facilities automatically completing the transaction without any action required by either the first one or the second one of the plurality of business clients, and

~~a transaction facilitating unit which facilitates a transaction between the first business client and a third party business on behalf of the first business clients wherein the parameters defining the bounds in which the transaction takes place being [[are]] determined by the first one of the plurality of business clients client.~~

22. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the host data processing system is a plurality of networked data processing systems.

23. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the first software facility first level services and the second software facility first level services include at least one of providing storage, providing network connectivity, web hosting, and providing processing capability.

24. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the first software facility second level services and the second software facility second level services include at least one of providing inventory management services, providing accounting services, providing pricing services, and providing billing and collection services.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 21 ~~[[25]]~~, wherein facilitating transactions comprises:

a need identifier which identifies, by said first software facility, a purchasing need of the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~;

a vendor identifier which identifies, by the first software facility, the second one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~ as a vendor for the purchasing need of the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~;

a payment unit which facilitates, by the first and second software facilities, payment; and
an inventory unit which adjusts, by the first and second software facilities, inventory records for the first one and second one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~.

27. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 26, wherein the payment unit comprises:

a payment transfer unit which transfers appropriate sums from an account belonging to the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~ to an account belonging to the second one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~.

28. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between said [[a]] host of the first and second level services and the first one of the plurality of business clients ~~client~~ for the providing of the first software facility first and second level services are automated.

29. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the quantity of the first software facility first and second level services provided is adjusted by said [[a]] host of the first and second level

~~services~~ based upon the fulfillment of criteria specified by the first one of the plurality of business clients
~~client~~.

30. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

a subcontracting unit which subcontracts the first software facility first level services and the
second software facility first level services from a secondary hosting service.

31. (Withdrawn) A method in a data processing system for facilitating business transactions, the method comprising:

hosting electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients;

identifying a need for a first business client based upon parameters received from the first business client;

determining a second business client, based on the parameters, capable of meeting the need of the first business client;

arranging for the second business client to perform a function fulfilling the first business client's need;

adjusting inventories, as necessary, of the first and the second business client; and

adjusting accounts of the first and the second business client to reflect payment for the item by the first business client to the second business client.

32. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the function performed by the second business client is providing an item to the first business client.

33. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the item has a tangible embodiment and is shipped from the second business client to the first business client.

34. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:

locating a shipping company;

arranging shipment of the item; and

arranging payment to the shipping company for the shipment.

35. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the data processing system comprises a plurality of networked data processing systems.

36. (Withdrawn) A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for facilitating business transactions, the method comprising:

- first instructions for hosting electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients;
- second instructions for identifying a need for a first business client based upon parameters received from the first business client;
- third instructions for determining a second business client, based on the parameters, capable of meeting the need of the first business client;
- fourth instructions for arranging for the second business client to perform a function fulfilling the first business client's need;
- fifth instructions for adjusting inventories of the first and the second business client; and
- sixth instructions for adjusting accounts of the first and the second business client to reflect payment for the item by the first business client to the second business client.

37. (Withdrawn) A system in a data processing system for facilitating business transactions, the method comprising:

- a hosting unit which hosts electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients;
- a need identification unit which identifies a need for a first business client based upon parameters received from the first business client;
- a vendor identification unit which determines a second business client, based on the parameters, capable of meeting the need of the first business client;
- a transaction agent which arranges for the second business client to perform a function fulfilling the first business client's need;
- an inventory monitoring unit which adjusts inventories of the first and the second business client;
- and
- an accounting unit which adjusts accounts of the first and the second business client to reflect payment for the item by the first business client to the second business client.